VOLUME #12
June 4, 1979

The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, 603-964-8668.

MONTHLY REPORT: This month was simply too short. I put my pen down from one newsletter, and it's time for another. I go to work, come home and go to work. The next day and the next I do the same thing. Then on my days off I stay home and I go to work. I must love you very much to be able to cope with a schedule like that. Would anybody like to be me for a while? I need the rest.

I did have a break though when Priscilla (a delightful lady from Hartford, and a Tiffany sister) visited for the Memorial Day weekend. We donned masculine attire (not my favorite) and went to Tuckerman's Ravine. Tucks is a home from my past, and it felt so good to be back home surrounded by the hills, breathing mountain clean air, listening to happy people laugh.

I love my hills nearly as much as my feminine self, and I am very very grateful to Priscilla for the day. (Thanks lady, it was a joy.)

For the Tiffany Club, May was a month of continued steady growth. Most of our progress was made early in the month (which prompted the suppliment newsletter). During that period our North Hampton facilities became available for Tiffany Club's use, which means we now have a place for weekly get-togethers, storage space and a way to trade and purchase clothing. We have the beginnings of a crude boutique, which clothing is being collected (although not very vigorously at the moment) for sale to our members. In addition to the acquisition of facilities, we have gained nine new members, which keeps pace with last month's growth. So girls, keep faith, stay patient, and faithful. We are getting there.

As for the acquisition of our Boston area facilities (for those teeming masses who are critically concerned); not yet. Diane is our coordinator in that area, and when the time and location is right she will let us know. We trust her. Again, be patient, stay faithful, for we are getting there.

Outside of the Tiffany Club the big news for the month is the resurgence of the International Alliance for Male Feminism. Back when the Tiffany Club was being planned and the groundwork laid, the Alliance was to be our national affiliation. When that group fell on hard times, we were left on our own, which is an uncomfortable feeling. Well, the Alliance is still alive, moderately healthy, and that's a big relief. (More on that later in the newsletter.)

All in all, May was a pretty good month, good enough to justify moving on to June.

LOVE, Merissa Sherrill Lynn

COMING EVENTS

TIFFANY CLUB

BUSINESS MEETING - Tuesday June 12, 8:30 pm at our North Hampton residence. The primary business will be to further plan and develop our activities for the summer and early fall months. If possible, PLEASE ATTEND!!!

You may arrive as early as 5:00pm for the purpose of getting dressed, and casual socializing.

OPEN MEETINGS - Casual get togethers every Tuesday evening at the North Hampton residence from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm. No planned agenda, BYOB, BYOF, just a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy the company of your special sisters.

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY

OPEN MEETINGS - Every Wednesday evening. Casual get togethers. (Call Kay, 617-254-7389

END OF THE MONTH PARTY - Saturday, June 30, 1979

NEW MEMBERSHIPS: I miscounted. We have ten new members, not nine. Must say, we have an assortment this month; old friends, and new, from near and far, male and female. Let us welcome Christine G. (N.Y.), Shiela S. (Mass.), Kathy A. (N.H.), Glenda J. (Penn.), Ingrid (N.H.), Joanna (N.H.), Bill R. (Mass.), Diane S. (Mass.), Janet B. (Mass.), and Bob Mc. (N.H.)

GENERAL

FACILITIES: The acquisition of our Greater Boston area facilities will be a major step; therefore it is most important that we take our time and make

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sure we can afford it. In the mean time our North Hampton residence has been converted over for Tiffany Club's use.

There is now storage space, a place to dress, and general and keyholder memberships are now on sale.

The North Hampton facilities - an apartment which includes a bedroom, living room, kitchen and bath. It also includes a private entrance, ample parking and privacy. (For those of you who are familiar with our location, Alice Wilhelm, the manager of the Pine Haven Motel across the street, is our friend, and you are welcomed to stay there. For reservations call 603-964-8187)

BOUTIQUE: Second hand items are now being collected for sale to our membership and guests. If you have items you would like to contribute (get rid of) or have sold (the consignment rate is 20%), please give them to Merissa.

The boutique is a very important service not only for those of us who enjoy a little on-the-spot shopping, but particularly for our newcomers who have very little wardrobe of their own.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Come on my friends, don't be afraid. Get your listing in. We have so many lovely people in the Tiffany Club, nice people, all well worth knowing. Get to know them, let them know you. Get your listing in.

We have sisters and brothers on the North Shore, South Shore, in the North and West, in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, in the Mid-West, Far-West, Deep South and Canada. We are all special. Let us talk, and learn, and enjoy one another. Please, get your membership listing in.

INGBRO:

INGBRO
PT RESEARCH
P.O. BOX 984
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03755

We are compiling information on the subject of female domination, in particular domination achieved through petticoat training.

If you are able and willing to provide information or details of any experience you have had with the use of forced feminization techniques on men, please write to the above address.

We are especially interested in instances where men have been forced or required to wear female clothing.

If you are a male who has been required by a woman to wear stockings, lingerie and other such items; or if you are a woman who requires a male to dress in such clothing, we would like to hear from you.

Please describe your experiences in as much detail as possible. Please enclose your return address.

Thank you for your time.

Ingrid

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MALE FEMINISM:

The International Alliance for Male Feminism is back in business.

What this means to the Tiffany Club:

When our project was first conceived, the idea was to build a strong regional organization while working with a compatible national organization. the IAMF was that organization.

The stratagy was to get our act together, build membership, activity and financial stability. We would remain autonomous, but develop a membership dues structure that would encourage our members to individually join IAMF. We would encourage and assist in the development of other regional organizations with membership policies and screening proceedures similar to our own. The IAMF would then act as the unifying factor for all our groups. They would do this with a magazine, with a membership directory, with special publications of interest such as business directories, and an information distribution center.

When the IAMF folded early last year, that left only one other compatable national organization, Tri Sigma. Tri Sigma, with its conservative and exclusive membership policies was not equipped to do the job. That meant we would have to do the job ourselves, and that would take years.

Well, IAMF is back in business. Thank God. Let's hope it stays that way. In order to do so the IAMF needs our support. Because of the long term importance of the IAMF to the Tiffany Club and to other regional groups, I urge you to give them your support.

For information write: Glenda Rene Jones
P.O. Box 1434
Allentown, Penn. 18105

LLETIN BOARD:

TRI SIGMA: For those of you who have been asking about what happened to Tri Sigma and Carole; Tri Sigma is still with us. Our boss lady Carole has been ill, and will be recuperating for a while to come. I have it on good authority she will be OK, which is a big relief, but wont be able to resume activities much before July.

ALBANY TVIC: June 17 is the last regularly scheduled meeting for Albany. No meetings will be held July or August. The next meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 15. For information write:
William M. Thordsen
1104 Broadway
Albany, New York 12200

MISCELLANEOUS:

For those of you who are nervous about going shopping for your femme selves while dressed in masculine attire, this quote from Ingrid may help; "He asked the salespeople to show him. He felt awkward at first, but was always treated courteously. Was even told that the salespeople preferred male customers because they were less indecisive and make more impulse buys than women."

In other words, you are a good customer, and you will be treated accordingly, no matter who you are buying the clothes for. So ladies, relax, and enjoy.

I wonder who's kissing her now?
"Daddy, what's her now?"

FORUM

The Forum is a new section of The Tapestry intended for those among us who are philosophers, psychologists, critics, or just interested in understanding ourselves a little better. The Forum is not for news items, technical articles, announcements, fiction or fantasy. Rather, it is for talk, for thought, for learning about ourselves, for sharing feelings, and discussing problems.

The Forum is for exploring our difficulties, what we think, what we feel, and what we say and do, and more importantly, why! All members of the Tiffany Club are encouraged to use and enjoy The Forum.

This is my first humble contribution, and would love to have your responses, read and study your thoughts, and talk with you about them.

A REASON TO CROSSDRESS
by
Merissa Sherrill Lynn

I realize there are perhaps as many reasons for crossdressing as there are people who crossdress. I also realize that most everyone has a political, ethical or philosophical opinion concerning crossdressing. To get into a discussion on the multitude of reasons, or the politics of dress, or the right and wrong of dressing is beyond this short article. I want to, but wont, get into a conversation on reasons to be, modes of being, oneness-androgeny, the universiality of sensuality and sexuality, the natural artificiality of humans and their own modes of being. I could talk of my own oneness, [illegible]fications for my feelings and actions, and my own philosophical idea[illegible]aning, coping, politics, and being. I could, but I wont.

Rather, I will to the best of my ability talk about why I, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, crossdress, and what it is that I feel.

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I divide my experience into three catagories: 1.) envy-appreciation, 2.) sensual, 3.) sexual. Although these three are inseperable as each influences the others and heightens their rewards, I will discuss them separately.

Envy-Appreciation: I have since I can remember envied and admired women. As a male child I envied little girl's ability to give and receive love. I wanted the same, was denied, and therefore wanted to be a little girl. As an adult I still envy the ease of which women can express those human qualities I hold most dear; love and affection for others, gentleness and kindness. These are the qualities I prefer for myself as a person. I find when freed of the rigid demands of being 'a man' it is very easy to feel affection for people regardless of sex, to give and receive love, and to be a nicer person. I find the more feminine I become the more I understand and resent the pressures of masculinity, the easier it is to feel empathy and respect for women, and the more I like me. That is a very good feeling. So in my case envy is a good sensation, a motivation to practice being the person I prefer to be.

As I envy women, so do I admire and appreciate them. To me they are not only nicer people, but far more beautiful than men. (As a male I am attracted to females' naturally smooth softness, which is why I sexually prefer females, but has absolutely nothing to do whith why I crossdress.) Women's mode of dress, their mannerisms, their physical grace and poetry, their ability to change and compliment their physical features and ability to change appearance to fit the mood appeal to me as an artist. Femininity is an art.

If I see a beautiful woman I immediately feel a warm sensual flush of appreciation. It is a joyful feeling, a very personal and intensely felt sense of admiration for another human being. That is a far different feeling than sexual desire, and more complimentary for it implies not only appreciation, but respect. I see that woman and I ache, longing to draw her into my soul, to be her, to look like her, to walk and talk like her, to feel what she feels, if only for a while. She is the art, she is the artist. I long to the the artist, and be the art.

Compare this feeling if you will with the feeling other people have for admired persons, persons they choose to model their lives after - athletes, ministers, politicians, heros, etc. I like women; so much so that I want to be one.

Sensual: The feminine experience is far more than a way to feel and act, or a visual, physical and emotional art form. It is also a sensual experience, totally different than the masculine experience. We humans can sense and feel like most other species, but only we humans can interpret our sensations, catagorize them, give them lables such as 'masculine' or 'feminine', give them values such as 'good' or 'bad', and not only derive pleasure from them, but recondition and intensify that pleasure. That is a lot of power we humans have over our feelings. Being human, I am aware and capable of building upon my sensuality. Being male, I am very familiar with the pleasures and prides of the masculine sensual experience. However, being the special person that I am, I am also familiar with the incredibly exciting and happy world of feminine sensuality. There is really no describing the sense of satisfaction, the sense of completeness, of wholeness, and of a unique sense of wisdom that being able to transcend gender distinctions affords me. I am at peace with my masculinity because I am finally at peace with my femininity.

The sensation of feeling pretty is different than feeling handsome. The touch of women's clothes is different than the touch of men's. 'Girl talk' is sensually different than 'guy talk'. Feeling 'feminine' is different than feeling 'masculine', and to me feeling feminine is much much more rewarding. I dearly love the sensation of feeling pretty, the caressing touch of velvet and nylon, the deep internal sense of poetry and the powerful sense of pride in my feminine self. For me the sense of wholeness, of peace, and pride in myself as a feminine male person is my reward.

I am a very rich and satisfied person. I have peace of mind and self acceptance, not in spite of my femininity, but because of it.

Sexual: I like females and everything about them. Females are my turn-on, their look, and above all else, their softness, the warm smooth touch of their lovely bodies. Make-up and clothes are not a turn-on. However, although the pleasure of clothes, make-up and adornment is more aesthetic and sensual than sexual, it would be wrong to say that crossdressing has no erotic appeal. To feel the softness that is my own, to feel the female in my soul, to feel within myself those qualities that excite me in the first place is a tremendous turn-on Clothes and adornment, particularly soft sexy items such as negligies help to trigger this sensation. However, this sensation is only part of the overall erotic experience.

When dressed I feel attractive. (What I actually look like doesn't matter. To someone else I may be as attractive as a downtown Boston pothole, but what I look like and feel like are two different things.) I feel desireable, of being desired. That feeling of being desired, of being able to turn somebody else on is perhaps camp, a little naughty, certainly a lot of fun, and very very exciting.

That sensation of fun and excitement is a tremendous reward in itself, but there is still more.

I am capable of being aroused visually. That means I am aroused by the sensation of feeling attracted to, of desiring something external to myself. When dressed I am aroused by the sensation of feeling attractive. That means when I am dressed I feel attractive and attracted to myself, desired by and desiring myself, sexy and sexual at the same time. What an absolutely incredible sensation that is. It is an overwhelming rush, or trip, or anything else you want to call it. Join that sensation with the pleasures of sensual femininity, and with the satisfaction of actually being the object of aesthetic appreciaition, and with what is to me the most rewarding of all, actually being the person you want to be, and you have a feeling that has left me feeling too weak to stand, bawling my eyes out from sheer joy. It is in effect a religious experience.

This sense of joyful ecstacy is a euphoric high that I could wish all people to experience at least once in their lives. Perhaps then they would understand the sense of peace, and wholeness. Then they would know not only this sensual, sexual and aesthetic bliss, but also the important and very real rewards of being a softer, more loving, more understanding, and nicer person.

The world can well afford a few more nice people, more peace of mind, and and lot more love. I am who I am because I want to be, and I would like the world to know why.

-END-

(This is an excerpt from a letter written to me from Glenda Jones, the Chairperson of the International Alliance. This excerpt will give you an idea of the prevailing attitude of the leadership of the IAMF, and why the IAMF is most compatable with the Tiffany Club.)

Glenda Rene Jones
Box 1434
Allentown, PA 18105

Dear Merissa

Nobody really gets rich in the paraculture. Well that is unless you are out to rip off the culture and that is hard for anyone on the culture to do. We have been through all the same shit. I at least am not in this for money. I can make a lot more designing computers. I am in it I guess for two reasons:

One I have found my people. I have made friends that many years from now I will have shared many happy experiences with. The crossdresders seem to have a bond. I can discuss thing with these people that I would spend ten years getting around to with my straight friends. Who are you going to discuss a lot of your deep feelings with? Your co-worker at the office or the next door neighbor? And good people. Really beautiful people. Yes, an asshole will creep into any group, but I have been so impressed by the Alliance people. There are some I have grown very fond of. I want the Alliance to be a place where I and others can form these bonds of friendship and love.

(That brings up a point. How many times can you sign a letter 'love' to another male acquaintance? Damn few times in this society. I find that with these people I can express love and have them love me in return. Although the Alliance accepts anyone regardless of sexuality, we have little gay element. Our love is a love based on feelings.)

The other thing is that crossdressing has to be pretty harmless. Getting dolled up and going out to dinner just can't be all that bad and yet there are still places where we get hassled. On our jobs and sometimes with the law. I want to work towards the end of making this respectable. The alliance has had some bad press. Something I am going to put a stop to. From now on any reporter that we allow into our culture is by God going to point out that we are intelligent respectable people and not a bunch of frumpy lonely old men wanting a chance to play a child's game. My two big pitches in advertising over the next few months are going to be "You are not alone" and "It's OK for a guy to be feminine"

LOVE, Glenda